

INFORMATION REPORT

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25X1X 1. The Sofia-Blagoevgrad (formerly Gorna Dzhumaya) road: The main road running south from Sofia down the Struma Valley via Marek and Blagoevgrad is in excellent condition from Sofia to approximately half the distance to Marek. The road is 18 feet wide and paved. Thereafter, as far as Blagoevgrad, the road is unpaved and varies in width from 15 to 25 feet. The surface of this stretch of road is extremely poor for a through route, particularly between Marek and Blagoevgrad. A loaded vehicle could not exceed 20 miles per hour without suffering excessive wear and tear. No maintenance is in progress apart from a small group of workmen who are employed throughout the summer strewing dust from the shoulders back onto the road.

2. The Marek-Samokov road: This road, which affords a useful lateral communication between the Struma Valley and the Isker Valley and thence on from Samokov to the Maritsa Valley, is a second class unpaved road of an average width of 16 feet which has been allowed to fall into disrepair. From Marek to Saparevo Banya the surface remains more or less intact, but very uneven. From Saparevo Banya to Klisura the road passes through a gorge which would be impassable during winter. The road is negotiable during the summer only with the greatest care. From Klisura to Samokov, however, the dirt and stone surface is in excellent condition and during the summer the whole route could well be used in an emergency.

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